

CLASSIFICATION    ~~SECRET~~/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY  
SECURITY INFORMATION

## INFORMATION REPORT

## REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 21 October 1952

SUBJECT LDP Opposition to National Army

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE OF INFO.

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

PLACE  
ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 50X1-HUM

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

1. A meeting of LDP Kreis chairmen was held in Dresden on 24 May 1952. Minister Arthur Schlesinger, State Chairman for Saxony, presided. The principal speech was made by Deputy Chairman (fnu) Müller of Dresden, who discussed the topics "Demand for intensification of all-German activity, Strengthening of the DDR and of its democratic accomplishments, Liberation from the danger of being attacked by West German mercenaries". His address was followed by a lively discussion.
2. Thust (fnu), a young man from Oesgatz, asserted that an appeal to arms always led to disaster. Reminding the assemblage that walls throughout East Germany have painted on them the words "We need no army", he said that armament, whether it be called remilitarization or national army, is bound to end in war. Whereas previously members of the LDP were not accepted for service in the "Volkspolizei", which is to become the national army, the Party is now required to support a recruiting campaign; this, said Thust, is contrary to the wishes of the Party and of the general public, which has not forgotten the advice to tear up induction notices. In this matter the people must decide, not the government; Thust recommended a general strike as a last resort, and insisted that supporters of pacifism should be able to present their case in the press.
3. In spite of objections by Schlesinger, Thust proposed a resolution containing the following points:
  - a. The protection of the DDR is necessary; this is the function of the regular police.
  - b. The "national army" is a departure from the idea of reconciliation.
  - c. Armament will deepen the split between East and West Germany.
  - d. The government and the People's Chamber have no authority to decide this question.
  - e. A referendum is demanded.
  - f. The leadership of the LDP should refrain, for the time being, from a public expression of opinion.

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET/CONTROL~~ - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

[illegible]

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY



50X1-HUM

- 2 -

4. No vote on this resolution was allowed. Johnnes Dieckmann, President of the People's Chamber, accused Thust of being an agent of the West, and said the same arguments were made by the Western press and RIAS. (A Beckler cried, "You listen to RIAS!") Dieckmann added that the Americans want war, with European infantry, against Russia; the choice is only between the policy of the Soviet Union and that of Truman and Churchill. Anyway, cannon do not have to be fired, as witness Switzerland and Sweden. He said he favored a general strike -- in the West.
5. Strawinsky (fnu), from Aue, said that Aue had held a referendum only two weeks before, and had given a majority of 99.6% in favor of peace. Aue is against the establishment of a national army. Strawinsky rejected the Marxist doctrine of the just and unjust war. Two other speakers complained about the government's reversal of its former policy; Dieckmann called this argument dangerously pedantic.
6. Thust asked whether there would be general conscription and what would be done with the pacifists, and said the next step might be a demand for unifying Germany by force of arms. Dieckmann replied: "We are all pacifists in the broader meaning of the word. We are fighters for peace; pax means peace. Incidentally, the Soviet Union has never yet begun a war. In the second half of the twentieth century it is impossible for a state to maintain itself for long against the will of the people." This last statement was greeted with enthusiastic applause.
7. The chairman prevented Thust from speaking again, saying, "You have spoken often enough already."

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY